

(c) delivering RF energy through the array to the tissue to cause the tissue to dehydrate; and

(d) during step (c), applying suction through the fluid permeable elastic member to cause moisture generated during the dehydration of step (c) to pass into the fluid permeable elastic member and away from the tissue and allowing at least a portion of the moisture to pass through the openings in the flexures.

6. (AMENDED) A method of ablating and/or coagulating tissue, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an ablation device including an electrode array carried by an elongate tubular member, the electrode array including a fluid permeable elastic member having insulating regions and conductive regions thereon;

(b) positioning the electrode array in contact with tissue to be ablated;

(c) delivering RF energy through the array to the tissue to cause the tissue to dehydrate; and

(d) during step (c), applying suction through the fluid permeable elastic member to cause moisture generated during the dehydration of step (c) to pass into the member, away from tissue and into the tubular member.

7. (AMENDED) A method of ablating and/or coagulating tissue, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an ablation device including an expandable electrode array carried by an elongate tubular member, the electrode array including a fluid permeable elastic member having insulating regions and conductive regions thereon;

(b) positioning the electrode array in contact with tissue to be ablated and moving the array to an expanded condition;

(c) delivering RF energy through the array to the tissue to cause the tissue to dehydrate; and

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(d) during step (c), applying suction to the tubular member and through the fluid permeable elastic member to cause moisture generated during the dehydration of step (c) to pass into the fluid permeable elastic member and away from the tissue, the suction drawing the moisture through the tubular member.

15. (AMENDED) A method of ablating and/or coagulating tissue, comprising the steps of:

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- (a) providing an ablation device including an electrode array carried by an elongate tubular member, the electrode array including a fluid permeable elastic member having insulating regions and conductive regions thereon;
 - (b) positioning the electrode array into contact with tissue to be ablated;
 - (c) delivering RF energy through the array to the tissue to cause the tissue to dehydrate;
 - (d) permitting moisture generated during the dehydration of step (c) to pass into the fluid permeable elastic member and away from the tissue and
 - (e) applying suction through the tubular member to draw the tissue into contact with the electrode array.

34. (AMENDED) A method of ablating and/or coagulating tissue, comprising the steps of:

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- (a) providing an ablation device including an expandable electrode array carried by an elongate tubular member and a pair of elongate flexures wherein each flexure includes at least one opening, the electrode array including a fluid permeable elastic member having insulating regions and conductive regions thereon, wherein the fluid permeable elastic member includes metallized fabric;
 - (b) positioning the electrode array in contact with tissue to be ablated and moving the array to an expanded condition by expanding the flexures;
 - (c) delivering RF energy through the array to the tissue to cause the tissue to dehydrate; and

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(d) permitting moisture generated during the dehydration of step (c) to pass into the fluid permeable elastic member and away from the tissue and allowing at least a portion of the moisture to pass through the openings in the flexures.

38. (AMENDED) A method of ablating and/or coagulating tissue, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an ablation device including an expandable electrode array carried by an elongate tubular member and a pair of elongate flexures wherein each flexure includes at least one opening, the electrode array including a fluid permeable elastic member having insulating regions and conductive regions thereon;

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(b) positioning the electrode array into an organ and into contact with tissue to be ablated and moving the array to an expanded condition by expanding the flexures;

(c) measuring the approximate length and width of the organ, selecting an ablation power corresponding to the measured length and width, and delivering RF energy through the array to the tissue at approximately the selected power to cause the tissue to dehydrate; and

(d) permitting moisture generated during the dehydration of step (c) to pass into the fluid permeable elastic member and away from the tissue and allowing at least a portion of the moisture to pass through the openings in the flexures.

43. (AMENDED) A method of ablating and/or coagulating tissue, comprising the steps of:

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(a) providing an ablation device including an expandable electrode array carried by an elongate tubular member and a pair of elongate flexures wherein each flexure includes at least one opening, the electrode array including a fluid permeable elastic member having insulating regions and conductive regions thereon, wherein the array material has elasticity in a transverse direction and in a

longitudinal direction and wherein the elasticity in the transverse direction is greater than the elasticity in the longitudinal direction

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(b) positioning the electrode array in contact with tissue to be ablated and moving the array to an expanded condition by expanding the flexures;

(c) delivering RF energy through the array to the tissue to cause the tissue to dehydrate; and

(d) permitting moisture generated during the dehydration of step (c) to pass into the fluid permeable elastic member and away from the tissue and allowing at least a portion of the moisture to pass through the openings in the flexures.

45. (AMENDED) A method of ablating and/or coagulating tissue, comprising the steps of:

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(a) providing an ablation device including an electrode array carried by an elongate tubular member, the electrode array including a fluid permeable elastic member having insulating regions and conductive regions thereon, wherein the fluid permeable elastic member includes metallized fabric;

(b) positioning the electrode array in contact with tissue to be ablated;

(c) delivering RF energy through the array to the tissue to cause the tissue to dehydrate; and

(d) permitting moisture generated during the dehydration of step (c) to pass into the fluid permeable elastic member, away from tissue and into the tubular member.

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49. (AMENDED) A method of ablating and/or coagulating tissue, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an ablation device including an electrode array carried by an elongate tubular member, the electrode array including a fluid permeable elastic member having insulating regions and conductive regions thereon;

(b) positioning the electrode array within an organ and into contact with tissue to be ablated;

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(c) measuring the approximate length and width of the organ, selecting an ablation power corresponding to the measured length and width, and delivering RF energy through the array to the tissue at approximately the selected power to cause the tissue to dehydrate; and

(d) permitting moisture generated during the dehydration of step (c) to pass into the fluid permeable elastic member, away from tissue and into the tubular member.

54. (AMENDED) A method of ablating and/or coagulating tissue, comprising the steps of:

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(a) providing an ablation device including an electrode array carried by an elongate tubular member, the electrode array including a fluid permeable elastic member having insulating regions and conductive regions thereon, wherein the array material has elasticity in a transverse direction and in a longitudinal direction and wherein the elasticity in the transverse direction is greater than the elasticity in the longitudinal direction;

(b) positioning the electrode array in contact with tissue to be ablated;

(c) delivering RF energy through the array to the tissue to cause the tissue to dehydrate; and

(d) permitting moisture generated during the dehydration of step (c) to pass into the fluid permeable elastic member, away from tissue and into the tubular member.

58. (AMENDED) A method of ablating and/or coagulating tissue, comprising the steps of:

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(a) providing an ablation device including an expandable electrode array carried by an elongate tubular member, the electrode array including a fluid permeable elastic member having insulating regions and conductive regions thereon, wherein the fluid permeable elastic member includes metallized fabric;

(b) positioning the electrode array in contact with tissue to be ablated and moving the array to an expanded condition;

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(c) delivering RF energy through the array to the tissue to cause the tissue to dehydrate; and

(d) permitting moisture generated during the dehydration of step (c) to pass into the fluid permeable elastic member and away from the tissue, the suction drawing the moisture through the tubular member.

62. (AMENDED) A method of ablating and/or coagulating tissue, comprising the steps of:

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(a) providing an ablation device including an expandable electrode array carried by an elongate tubular member, the electrode array including a fluid permeable elastic member having insulating regions and conductive regions thereon;

(b) positioning the electrode array into and organ and contact with tissue to be ablated and moving the array to an expanded condition;

(c) measuring the approximate length and width of the organ, selecting an ablation power corresponding to the measured length and width, and delivering RF energy to the tissue at approximately the selected power to cause the tissue to dehydrate; and

(d) permitting moisture generated during the dehydration of step (c) to pass into the fluid permeable elastic member and away from the tissue, the suction drawing the moisture through the tubular member.

67. (AMENDED) A method of ablating and/or coagulating tissue, comprising the steps of:

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(a) providing an ablation device including an expandable electrode array carried by an elongate tubular member, the electrode array including a fluid permeable elastic member having insulating regions and conductive regions thereon wherein the array material has elasticity in a transverse direction and in a longitudinal direction and wherein the elasticity in the transverse direction is greater than the elasticity in the longitudinal direction;

(b) positioning the electrode array in contact with tissue to be ablated and moving the array to an expanded condition;

(c) delivering RF energy through the array to the tissue to cause the tissue to dehydrate; and

(d) permitting moisture generated during the dehydration of step (c) to pass into the fluid permeable elastic member and away from the tissue, the suction drawing the moisture through the tubular member.

71. (AMENDED) A method of ablating and/or coagulating tissue, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an ablation device including an electrode array carried by an elongate tubular member, the electrode array including a fluid permeable elastic member having insulating regions and conductive regions thereon, wherein the fluid permeable elastic member includes metallized fabric;

(b) positioning the electrode array into contact with tissue to be ablated;

(c) delivering RF energy through the array to the tissue to cause the tissue to dehydrate;

(d) permitting moisture generated during the dehydration of step (c) to pass into the fluid permeable elastic member and away from the tissue and

(e) applying suction through the tubular member to draw the tissue into contact with the electrode array.

75. (AMENDED) A method of ablating and/or coagulating tissue, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an ablation device including an electrode array carried by an elongate tubular member, the electrode array including a fluid permeable elastic member having insulating regions and conductive regions thereon;

(b) positioning the electrode array within an organ and into contact with tissue to be ablated;

(c) measuring the approximate length and width of the organ, selecting an ablation power corresponding to the measured length and width, and delivering the RF energy to the tissue at approximately the selected power to cause the tissue to dehydrate;

(d) permitting moisture generated during the dehydration of step (c) to pass into the fluid permeable elastic member and away from the tissue; and

(e) applying suction through the tubular member to draw the tissue into contact with the electrode array.

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76. (AMENDED) The method of claim 75 wherein the step of measuring the approximate width of the organ includes the step of expanding the flexures to an expanded condition and deriving the approximate width of the uterus from the relative positions of the flexures in the expanded condition.

77. (AMENDED) The method of claim 75 wherein step (c) further includes selecting an ablation power which is proportional to the measured length times the measured width.

80. (AMENDED) A method of ablating and/or coagulating tissue, comprising the steps of:

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(a) providing an ablation device including an electrode array carried by an elongate tubular member, the electrode array including a fluid permeable elastic member having insulating regions and conductive regions thereon, wherein the array material has elasticity in a transverse direction and in a longitudinal direction and wherein the elasticity in the transverse direction is greater than the elasticity in the longitudinal direction;

(b) positioning the electrode array into contact with tissue to be ablated;

(c) delivering RF energy through the array to the tissue to cause the tissue to dehydrate;

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(d) permitting moisture generated during the dehydration of step (c) to pass into the fluid permeable elastic member and away from the tissue; and

(e) applying suction through the tubular member to draw the tissue into contact with the electrode array.

claims 84-108 were cancel in Amdt C

Please add new Claims 84 – 91:

84. (NEW) The method of claim 5 wherein the electrode array is a bipolar electrode array.

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85. (NEW) The method of claim 6 wherein the electrode array is a bipolar electrode array.

86. (NEW) The method of claim 7 wherein the electrode array is a bipolar electrode array.

87. (NEW) The method of claim 15 wherein the electrode array is a bipolar electrode array.

88. (NEW) The method of claim 5 wherein the suction applied in step (d) substantially eliminates liquid surrounding the electrodes during ablation.

89. (NEW) The method of claim 6 wherein the suction applied in step (d) substantially eliminates liquid surrounding the electrodes during ablation.

90. (NEW) The method of claim 7 wherein the suction applied in step (d) substantially eliminates liquid surrounding the electrodes during ablation.

91. (NEW) The method of claim 15 wherein the suction applied in step (d) substantially eliminates liquid surrounding the electrodes during ablation.